



CHURCH OF OUR LADY IMMACULATE AND ST ANDREW

16 Nightingale Road, HITCHIN, SG5 1QS



(of the Augustinians of the Assumption)

Newsletter No 1940



Daily Mass at 10am is open to the public and is livestreamed on [Livestream Mass](#) and posted to the homepage of the parish website by 11.30am daily. If you can come another day please leave Sunday for those who can't.

24th April – 1st May 2021 – FOURTH SUNDAY OF EASTER - Year B the gospel according to Mark

Parish Prayer: Lord Jesus, as the world copes with coronavirus, help us to remember that you are always with us. Grant wisdom to decision makers and bless all health workers. Bring healing to the sick; give peace to the anxious and comfort those who are sad. Stir us to show your love and mercy most especially to the poor and weak. This we ask in your name. Amen.

Readings: : Acts 4:8-12, 1 John 3:1-2, John 10:11-18

Psalm: The stone which the builders rejected has become the corner stone. Alleluia!

Next week: Acts 9:26-31, 1 John 3:18-24, John 15:1-8

Ramblings Rather than reflect on the Good Shepherd let us seek his guidance and help

A prayer of commitment

from the Mennonite community (John van de Laar. © 2009 Sacredise Mennonite)

Good Shepherd,

Teach us to follow you:

to care for all that are close to us,
to protect those who are threatened,
to welcome those who are rejected,
to forgive those who are burdened by guilt,
to heal those who are broken and sick,
to share with those who have little or nothing,
to take the time to really know one another
and love as you have loved us.



Good Shepherd,

Teach us to follow you:

to spread compassion to those who are far away,
to speak for those who are voiceless,
to defend those who are oppressed and abused,
to work for justice for those who are exploited,
to make peace for those who suffer violence,
to take the time to recognise our connectedness,
and to love as you have loved us.

Good Shepherd,

Teach us to follow you

and to be faithful to calling you gave us
to be shepherds in your name. Amen.

Saint John Paul II: *What a blessing it is to know Christ, the Good Shepherd, to know Him as the Redeemer who laid down His life for the sheep, to know Him as the Risen Lord, the source of everlasting joy and life. What a blessing it is to know the Good Shepherd and to believe in Him. This gift of faith is the greatest blessing we could ever receive in life.*

Diary Dates

Sun 25 April – Sat 1 May

10am Mass in the church.

Wed 28 April

6pm – Feed Up Warm Up – Scout Hall

Thurs 29 April **St Catherine of Siena**

We pray for **Rosemary Gannon** whose funeral is today and for **Madeleine O'Connell** whose funeral is on **Friday 30 April 2021**. May they rest in peace and rise in glory. May the Lord comfort their families.



Mass attendance over the past week

Sat	Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thur	Fri
33	61/21*	17	26	16	13	22

*livestream attendance

††††††††††

Mass Survey As we are moving more confidently along the roadmap outlined by the government for our return to normal functioning we will introduce more Masses at the weekends. To enable us to do this we will need, Readers, EMs, Stewards and Cleaners for each Mass we introduce. The **Mass survey** seeking what our parish wants and how it can help us do this will be sent out this week. Please do take the time to complete it with your views. Watch out for it by email or hard copy in the church porch.

††††††††††

Covid 19—a very challenging time for many marriages. So much uncertainty around, health, income, employment, vulnerable family members, children, housing. Different ways of seeing things, coping with change, managing fears can be a source of conflict and stress. It can be difficult to talk, to listen to support and comfort when there is so much uncertainty. Being together all the time, brings different challenges. You wonder would we be better apart? Retrouvaille is a programme to support couples, it brings a positive focus, new hope and helps nourish and

grow your marriageand you don't need to leave home, it comes to you! For confidential information about Retrouvaille', or to register for the next programme, a Virtual weekend commencing on 1st -4th July 2021 Call or text +44788 729 6983 or +44 797 338 0443. Email: retrouvailleukinfo@gmail.com – or visit www.retrouvaille.org.uk

††††††††††

Consider joining the Global Day of Action for a #PeoplesVaccine, to demand an end to global vaccine apartheid. To stop Big Pharma monopolies so COVID-19 vaccines reach everyone, everywhere, join the action here: <https://peoplesvaccine.org/take-action/>

See the website for a detailed explanation of why we should consider taking action. [Global action on Vaccines](#)



††††††††††

Priest Training Fund

This Sunday is Good Shepherd Sunday and there will be envelopes to support the Priest Training Fund. This fund pays for the priestly formation of men for the Catholic priesthood. There are currently 42 men studying at Allen Hall seminary, 18 of whom are for our own Diocese, and two men are studying in Rome, also for our Diocese. Last year two men who studied at Allen Hall and one who studied in Rome ordained to the priesthood to serve as our future priests. The fund also supports the ongoing enrichment and formation of our ordained priests. Your gift ensures we can provide training for these men

responding to Christ's call to dedicate their lives to serve God's people. Please be as generous as you can. Please also pray for vocations and for all our priests. If you do not have a donation leaflet, plenty are still available at the back of the church. You can donate online anytime at www.rcdow.org.uk/donations

'A priest is an ordinary man called to an extraordinary ministry'


Cardinal Basil Hume


Is God calling you? These ordinary men said: 'Yes'


Vocations Promotion Team
 Canon Stuart Wilson vocationspromoter@rcdow.org.uk
 Fr Mike Maguire vocations@rcdow.org.uk
 @WestminsterVoca | Westminister Vocations

Diocese of Westminster
 VOCATIONS
 Registered charity no. 233699

Scan QR code for an information video or click on https://youtu.be/nP_u0A3S-q0

 This year marks the fifteenth anniversary of our foundation in the Philippines. At present there are two thriving communities at Queson City and a novitiate. May the Lord continue to bless this young venture.

 **AMORIS LAETITIA THE JOY OF LOVE 228** *Passionate Love - The world of emotions*
 A family is mature when the emotional life of its members becomes a form of sensitivity that neither stifles nor obscures great decisions and values, but rather follows each one's freedom, springs from it, enriches, perfects and harmonises in the service of all. (Thomas Aquinas, Summa Theologiae I-II, q59, art.5)

 If you have a need for prayer, please contact **Mary** on **07759195487** and let her know your prayer intentions

Parish Priest	Fr Tom O'Brien 07547 171570	Assistant Priest	Fr Euloge Kasine 07424 004647	Parish 01462 459126 E-mail: hitchin@rcdow.org.uk Website: https://parish.rcdow.org.uk/hitchin/
Parish Administrator	Cheryl Saunders	cherylsaunders@rcdow.org.uk	} 01462 459126 press 4	
Pastoral Assistants	Robert Hitchcock Trish Bonnett	roberthitchcock@rcdow.org.uk trishbonnett@rcdow.org.uk		

 This week's counting teams:
Sunday Team: Monday Team:

 If you are going into hospital please notify the Chaplain on Tel: **01438 285519** or Email: spiritualcare.enh-tr@nhs.net